



H I S T O R Y
O F
ALCANDER AND SEPTIMIUS.

ATHERNS, even long after the decline of the Roman empire, still continued the seat of learning, politeness and wisdom.

The Emperor and the generals, who in those periods of approaching ignorance, still felt a passion for science, from time to time added to its buildings or increased its professorships. Theodoric, the Ostrogoth, was of the number; he repaired those schools which

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which barbarity was suffering to fall decay, and continued those pensions to learning, which avaritious governors monopolized to themselves.

In this city, and about this period Alcander and Septimius were fellow students; the one the most sublime reasoner at the Lyceum, the other the most eloquent speaker in the academic grove. Their admiration soon begot an acquaintance, and their similitude of disposition made them friends. Their fortunes were nearly equal, and their studies the same, and they were of the two most celebrated cities in the world. It was therefore mutually resolved that they never separate; and as a step previous to this, Alcander placed his affections on a lady of exquisite beauty. Hypatia, who had no dislike to his addresses.

The day of their intended nuptials was fixed, the previous ceremonies were performed, and nothing now remained but their being conducted in triumph to the apartment of the intended bridegroom.

An exultation in his own happiness, being unable to enjoy any satisfaction in making his friend Septimius happy, prevailed upon him to introduce him to his fellow student, which he did with the gaiety of a man who found himself happy in friendship and love. B